

# The Colored American

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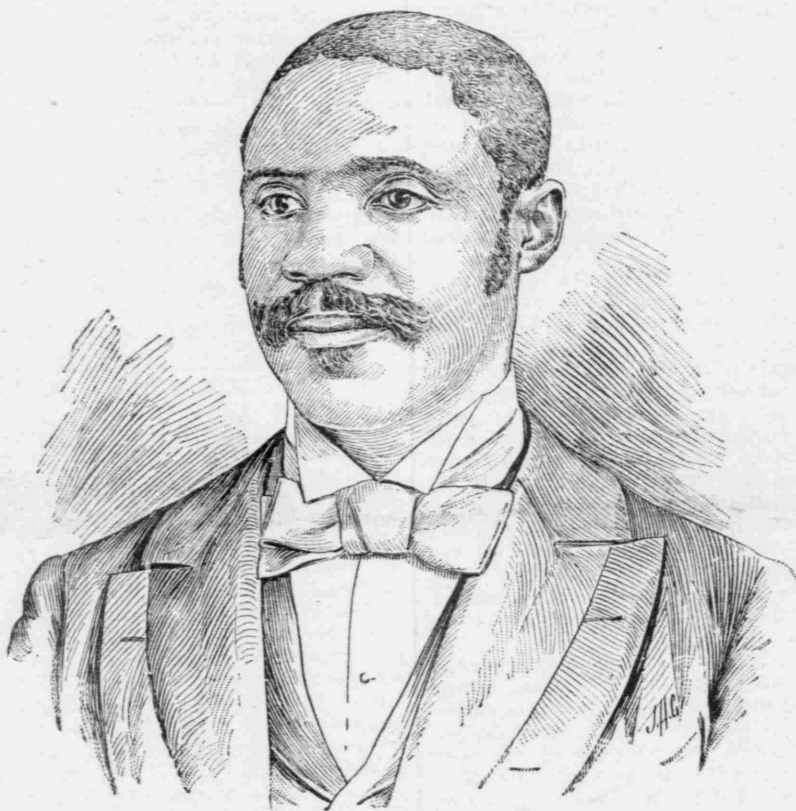
## RISEN FROM THE RANKS

### METEORIC SUCCESS OF HON JOHN C DANCY.

*From Farm Boy to Recorder of Deeds,  
the Mecca of National Political  
Leadership—Conceived Early in Life  
the Value of Fidelity to Duty and  
the Saving Influence of Conserva-  
tive Action—The Man of Destiny  
From Many Standpoints.*

It was Pope who said, "Education forms the common mind; just as the twig is bent, the tree's inclined." Heredity has much to do with the native genius that comes as a legacy to all mortals, but in the application of the gifts of Nature to the duties of the hour, the man must develop powers of his own—must create a distinctive individuality that fixes his place in the economy of civilization. The boy is the father to the man in the sense that the health and fragrance of the bud foreshadows the beauty and value of the rose—the strength of character and seriousness of purpose in the boy gives promise of the sturdiness of the after life. Viewing from this standpoint, the world need not be surprised at the meteoric success that has come to the work and worth of John C. Dancy, Recorder of Deeds for the District of Columbia. His career is a panorama of effort, aided by a heritage of moral quality, but educated and cultivated by an early and clear conception of the high responsibility that rested upon every one who received a commission as trustee in fact, to make the earth happier and better for his having been upon it. Mr. Dancy's youth was indicative of his manhood years. Aside from his fidelity, conscientiousness and incessant industry, if asked what one faculty seemed to set him apart from his fellows, I would say it was his wonderful and almost unparalleled versatility. To numbers of men there is given some one overwhelming talent that obscures the lesser, and establishes a fame that is great, but one-sided. To few, however, is fortune so lavish as to endow her favors in such generous and equal proportions as to make the perfect, symmetrical and well-rounded personality. Yet John C. Dancy was and is one of these. Strong physically and mentally as a man, patriotic as a citizen, thoughtful as a leader of his people, brilliant as an orator, liberal but true as a churchman, keen as a student of political ethics, conservative as an editor, loyal as a friend and loving as a husband and father—in this composite picture of all the traits that make for immortality we have John C. Dancy as

## MEN OF THE HOUR.



**HON. GEORGE W. MURRAY,**

*Ex Member of Congress from South Carolina, now a Leading Dealer in Real Estate and a Promoter of Home-Building for Progressive Negroes—Late Deputy Collector of Internal Revenue, Under George R. Koester, Whose Alleged Lynching Record Defeated Him for Confirmation.*

he appears to those who know him best. He believes with the illustrious Tennyson:

"How'er it be, it seems to me,  
'Tis only noble to be good.  
Kind hearts are more than coronets,  
And simple faith than Norman  
blood."

John C. Dancy was born of slave parents at Tarboro, N. C., in 1857, at the darkest hour of the American Republic, when the forces of evil and the phalanx of right were drawn up in battle array, preparing for that final struggle that should evidence the success or failure of a government based upon the equality of mankind. He came into being in an hour when calm, but firm judgment was necessary to bring order out of chaos, and hasten the dawn that follows the densest gloom. Perhaps, it was an ordination of Fate that the womb of Time should give birth in a crisis, to a spirit that would in another age be called upon to meet a similar condition.

Young Dancy lived upon a farm a mile from town, now a part of Princeville, N. C., a Negro settlement having a Negro mayor and town officers. He remained here until the war closed, when the act of emancipation became effective, after which his father moved back to Tarboro and began work as a contractor and builder, for which he was noted. He with a few friends, organized a church and school, and

sent North for a preacher and teacher. At this school our subject was entered. At the end of the term he led his class, and there he stood for the succeeding years. His teachers all regarded him as especially bright. He never gave them any trouble and his lessons were learned without much apparent effort. He was made to work during vacations and after school hours, acquiring that valuable quality—the habit of industry. In this way he learned the printer's art in a white office, where as pressman and typo he was much liked and was shown many favors. At fourteen years he was at the "case" and on the press in the Tarboro Southern office, a democratic paper still living, ringing the town bell at 9 o'clock, when all the boys had to be home, and also ringing the town bell four times a day as time-keeper for the workmen who worked under the town hour system. For all this work he was getting \$24 per month. He was, therefore, well-known throughout the town, though quite a youth. Before this, during the cotton season, he picked cotton, to secure spending money.

In 1873 he matriculated at Howard University as a student. Shortly afterward, his father died. He returned home, but continued his studies. He was a school teacher before he was

## MURRAY ON THE STAND

### EX CONGRESSMAN SPEAKS OF SOME PLAIN FACTS.

*How George W. Murray Became  
Deputy Under Collector Koester—  
Noble Reason for Accepting Place—  
Deas Accused of Duplicitly—Aiding  
Negroes to Secure Homes a Grand  
Mission than Presidents Can Confer.*

Providence, S. C. Special.

Mr. Editor: More in consideration of the friendship disclosed in your letter, calling attention to the very vile manner in which a few partisan Deas exchanges, in the North, are disposed to slander me, without regard to truth or decency, than from any estimate place upon their ability to harm me, I will attempt in as few words as possible, to put you in possession of the whole truth of my connection and disconnection with the Revenue Service, and relation to the appointment and confirmation of Mr. Geo. R. Koester as Internal Revenue Collector of South Carolina.

I not only had nothing to do with his appointment, but knew absolutely nothing about it until after he was made Collector.

Immediately after his appointment to my utter astonishment, I was telegraphed to come to Columbia on the next train, scheduled to arrive there about 11 p. m., and was informed that Mr. Koester, the newly appointed Collector, would await my coming.

To such an urgent request I responded at once, without knowing what would engage my attention during the conference, and something after 11 p. m. found Mr. Koester in his private parlor awaiting my arrival.

He did not keep me in ignorance very long of what he desired of me.

He at once informed me that he had been made Collector, and that it had been decided that I be made a division Deputy Collector.

I unhesitatingly declared that my private interests would not allow me to accept office, that I already had more of them than I could do, and that there were plenty of others both capable and deserving.

He insisted that I was wanted above all others as the representative race man in South Carolina, and that he was not alone in such a decision and wish, as parties high in administrative circles were urgent in my selection. I still insisted upon my declination, stating that the duties of the office would take me too far and long away from my private affairs, which reasons he met with the promise that arrangements would be made for me to have ample time to look after my private affairs, even if the territory in my division had to be reduced, or overconfining work done by special

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